

Rec'd PTO 24 MAR 2005



PO 53301274

REC'D 15 OCT 2003

WIPO PCT

Patent Office  
Canberra

I, JONNE YABSLEY, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2003901285 for a patent by VIVANTTI PTY LTD as filed on 20 March 2003.



WITNESS my hand this  
Eighth day of October 2003

*J R Yabsley*

JONNE YABSLEY  
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION  
SUPPORT AND SALES

**PRIORITY  
DOCUMENT**

SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN  
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

AUSTRALIA  
Patents Act 1990

**PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION**

**Applicant:**

VIVANTTI PTY LTD

**Invention Title:**

A NEW SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL  
PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The invention is described in the following statement:

A NEW SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL  
PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The present invention relates to risk management, particularly in the medical field. The invention however 5 is also applicable to other service based professions where risk management is important.

In relation to the medical field, medical practitioners such as doctors and surgeons can be sued for a number of reasons including failure to inform a patient 10 of the risks involved with a medical procedure and the failure to perform the medical procedure to an adequate standard. In a worst case scenario where a patient suffers complications associated with a medical procedure, it may be very difficult to prove exactly what the medial 15 practitioner told the patient before the procedure and in addition how well the patient comprehended what they had been told. Furthermore medical practitioners, particularly those that have sole practices, may not have the best administrative skills or procedures implemented 20 to minimise their potential risk.

The present invention is aimed at providing an alternative approach to reducing liability risk for professionals such as medical practitioners. The invention is equally applicable to other professionals 25 such as builders and financial planners, where there is a risk associated with the service they provide.

According to the present invention there is provided a system for controlling access to procedural information comprising an internet website having a data entry means to enable entry of data relating to a client 30 and authentication means to verify an ID access code for each client, a memory means to store data relating to each client including each client's ID access code, data on a plurality of procedures, data relating to each entity 35 associated with performing the procedures and a monitoring means to monitor access to any data on one or more of the procedures by each client and to store in the memory means

data relating to data accessed by each client.

Preferably the system includes one or more questionnaires associated with each procedure.

- The memory means preferably stores any  
5 questionnaires completed by a client.

It is preferred that the memory means stores an entity ID code which ID code is required by the entity to access data relating to any of its clients.

- 10 It is preferred that each client enters an ID access code received from an entity.

Preferably the data entry means is adapted to receive data from each entity relating to a client and store this in the memory means.

- 15 A consent means is preferably adapted to be stored by the memory means for each client.

It is preferred that the consent means comprises a consent form signed by the client.

Preferably the memory means is adapted to receive a consent means scanned by the entity.

- 20 Preferably the website includes an indication means for indicating if a consent means is not stored for any client.

- 25 The indication means may be a "flag" or other representation in a client file stored by the memory means.

Preferably the website includes an indication if a questionnaire associated with a procedure accessed by a client is not completed.

- 30 It is preferred that the indication includes an icon stored in the client file.

It is preferred that the website is adapted to send an email to an entity highlighting any indication associated with a client stored in the client's file.

- 35 Preferably the website is adapted to send any reminders to the entity and/or client regarding a questionnaire which is incomplete and/or a consent form which has not been received.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided an internet website having a data base containing information on a plurality of procedures and a plurality of questionnaires respectively relating to a different procedure, a data entry means enabling entry of particulars relating to a prospective client accessing the website, an authentication means for verifying an ID code (generating an ID code) for the client, transmitter means (for transmitting the data to the client), for transmitting particulars of a client to an entity associated with performing the procedure and for transmitting one or more questionnaires completed by the client to the entity and memory means for recording data including particulars of the client, the ID code of the client, information about the or each procedure stored on the data base and viewed by the client and one or more questionnaires completed by the client, whereby a record is kept of each client and the information the client accessed at the website including questionnaires completed by the client after the procedure has been performed by the entity.

Preferably the procedure relates to a medical procedure.

The client or prospective client is preferably a patient seeking information about a medical procedure.

Preferably the information stored in the database includes information about procedures associated with any service provided to a client in the field to which the service relates. Thus if the system is used in the building industry the database includes details of building procedures which can be viewed by a client prior to any entity such as a builder building in accordance with the procedure viewed by the client.

Preferably information is stored and retrievable from the database for viewing as information pages.

The system may include a controlling means for prompting a client to complete the or each questionnaire.

The system may include a disclaimer means for presenting a disclaimer relating to the procedure information viewed by the client.

5 The disclaimer may be presented to the client before any information regarding the procedure is presented for viewing.

Preferably the disclaimer includes an acknowledgment which must be authenticated by the client (for example by clicking on an icon) before information 10 relating to a procedure can be presented for viewing by the client.

15 The internet website may include a home page menu having options including, new client for outlining operations for a prospective client in order for the client to receive an ID code (password) and an ID entry, for a client to enter their ID code so that they can access procedural information.

20 Preferably the authentication means includes verification means for verifying an ID entered into an ID field in a data entry page of the website.

The data entry means may configured to provide one or more data entry pages on the website.

25 The data entry pages may be produced when a client selects a predetermined option on one page of the website.

The data entry pages may include new client pages which are produced when a new client selects the "new client" on one page of website.

30 It is preferred that the new client pages include fields to be completed by the new client including name and address.

When the new client page is completed it is preferred that the controller activates a transmitter to transmit an ID code to the new user.

35 The transmitter preferably transmits the ID code to an email address of the new client.

The data entry pages may include one or more

existing client pages which include a field for entering the clients ID.

The authentication means may be adapted to check the ID entered is correct for the client.

5 Once the authentication means has checked the ID is correct it is preferred that the controller is adapted to produce a main menu page on the website having a list of titles of information stored in the database.

10 Preferably each information topic is viewable at the website as one or more information topic pages, with a questionnaire associated with each information topic.

Each questionnaire is preferably located at the end of the information topic page(s).

15 A copy of the completed questionnaire may be recorded in the memory means in a client file created for the client.

A copy of details or title of an information topic reviewed by the client may be stored in the client file.

20 Preferably the memory means is adapted to store a file for each client, which file includes details of the client, information pages accessed by the client and questionnaires completed by the client as well as the time of access and length of access to the website by the client.

25 Preferably the questionnaire includes questions relating to information in the information pages viewed by the client.

30 The questionnaires are preferably multiple choice.

The controller may be adapted to mark the questionnaires and highlight wrong answers.

35 It is preferred that the entity receiving the executed questionnaires is able to view any wrong answers so that the entity can explain the correct answers to the client.

It is preferred that the website includes a

costing means for providing a cost estimate of one or more procedures.

The controller may be adapted to produce a cost estimate page(s) for a client when a questionnaire has  
5 been successfully completed.

Preferably the costing means is adapted to calculate a cost for a procedure described in information pages selected by the client.

Preferably the cost estimate is based on  
10 information received from the client as a result of the client completing an information field in the cost estimate page(s).

The memory preferably records any quote for a client.

15 The quote may include a break down of costs associated with the procedure.

The website may include a management means for storing data relating to management of an entities practice.

20 The data relating to management may include one or more of the following:

business management, administration, human resources, data relating to procedures, risk management, etc.

25 Preferably the management means includes one or more questionnaires associated with one or more of the above matters.

It is preferred that the website stores a management means access code for each entity whereby  
30 access to the management means is able to be monitored by the website.

It is preferred that the website stores a management means entity file for each entity and stores data relating to any information accessed in the  
35 management means.

It is preferred that the management means is adapted to produce periodic reports on data accessed in

the management means by the entity.

It is preferred that the entities management means access code may be used by any person authorised by the entity. For example if the entity is an individual or 5 partners in a medical practice, staff of the practice or individual may also be able to use the access code to access data in the management means.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a computer program for a 10 website or system according to any one of the previously described embodiments.

Preferably the website includes a list of entities which are able to provide a procedure which is stored on the database.

15 Preferably the entity is a professional practitioner such as a surgeon or engineer.

The words "comprising, having, including" should be interpreted in an inclusive sense, meaning that additional features may also be added.

20 A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to a flow diagram shown in Figures 1 and 2.

A website for controlling access to medical information relating to medical procedures for prospective 25 patients is represented by ISC.COM in Figure 1 as item 10.

The website acts as an interface between medical practitioners and patients.

In a typical application of the invention a user being a prospective patient, who, for example, wishes to 30 find out about a surgical procedure (such as a heart bypass procedure) accesses the ISC.COM website, in step 11, from their own computer terminal or from one provided for example in a doctor's surgery as referenced by item 12.

35 The website home page 10 prompts the user to enter their name, address and email address, as referenced by item 13, if they are new users.

The website 10 then automatically generates a password and emails this to the user, as referenced by item 14. The user then accesses the website 10 again and enters the password to get beyond the home page 10 after viewing a disclaimer, as referenced by item 15.

According to another embodiment of the present invention the prospective patient instead of receiving a password from the website, must firstly be seen by a surgeon in the surgeons' office. This helps to ensure that the patient is being consented for the most appropriate procedure for them.

During this first visit to the offices of the treating surgeon the patient is given a user name and chooses a password that they can remember. This information allows them to log in and access the website. The patient is then advised that they can visit the website at their leisure to view the information prior to a second appointment with their surgeon.

During the first meeting the treating surgeon, doctor or nursing staff asks the patient specific medical questions.

This will include questions regarding risk factors specific to their general health, allergies, medications, deep vein thrombosis risk, and risk factors associated with the particular anaesthetic they are having. This information is stored in a patient profile and is submitted to the website by the nurse.

Each time a user accesses the website 10 the website 10 records details of the user and the time of entry and stores this in a user database as referenced by item 16.

The website also has a database containing pages of information about different types of medical procedures.

It is preferred that after the user has entered their password an authentication process either rejects or approves the password and if approved presents a menu of

the topics relating to each of the procedures stored in a procedures database of the website. The user, in step 17, then selects the topic of the procedure they are interested in and views this information by clicking on 5 the topic of interest. In step 18 once the user has read the information a questionnaire follows this information and prompts the user to answer the multiple choice questions.

According to another variation of the present 10 invention when the patient accesses the website using their password, the website produces information specific to their procedure and information specific to their risk factors as previously input by the practice nurse. The patient's financial information is also available for 15 viewing.

The questions in the questionnaire relate to the information on the procedure which has just been viewed by the user. The results of the questionnaire are calculated by software of the website and incorrect answers may be 20 highlighted. The results of the questionnaire are recorded in the user database under the particular users name in step 19.

The completed questionnaire with correct or 25 incorrect answers is also emailed after encryption to a treating surgeon whose name has been selected by the user, either prior to entry to the website or from a database of surgeons provided by the website. This step is represented by item 20 in Figure 1.

According to another embodiment of the present 30 invention the surgeon must access the website and retrieve the questionnaire results rather than have them emailed directly to their computer.

It is preferred that the questionnaire appears as 35 an electronic document at the end of the procedural information. This makes it clear that the questionnaire relates to a procedure of a particular topic which has just been viewed and read by the user. However, it is

possible to have separate questionnaires which are provided in hard copy form. These may be faxed, mailed or taken by the user to the surgeon. After the submission of questionnaire answers and recording in the user database,

5 the website presents a financial consent page in step 21. On this page questions are asked regarding the medical procedure of interest to the user as well as other relevant information such as whether an anaesthetist is required as well as insurance, medical products etc.

10 It is not until the patient submits the questionnaire to the website or completes that one already provided that they will be able to go through with the medical procedure. The website also generates extra questions relating to the risk factors identified as 15 discussed previously. Anaesthetic information with regards to the procedure they are having is presented and there are additional questions in the questionnaire specific to the particular anaesthetic they are having.

Prior to the second surgeon visit, the surgeon 20 accesses the website and uses the results of the patient's questionnaire. The results of the questionnaire and in particular incorrect answers are discussed with the patient at the second visit. The surgeon can then add comments to the patient's questionnaires on the website to say that these answers have been discussed satisfactorily.

In addition patients are asked to sign a consent form produced by the website in the surgeon's office and the surgeon then scans the signed consent form and sends it to the website for storage in the patient's file.

30 This is shown in step 22. The website includes a cost estimate program for calculating the total cost of the medical procedure including any rebate from Medicare and health funds and calculates any other out of pocket expenses in step 23.

35 In step 24 a record of the quote given is recorded in the user file database and is emailed to the treating surgeon. In step 25 a copy of the cost estimate

can be printed so that the user can take this away with them. At the end of this procedure the user is able to exit the financial consent page and return to the main menu in step 25. The whole procedure can then be repeated  
5 for a different medical procedure viewed by the user.

In Figure 3 step 26 shows an additional feature of the website being a surgeon locator or medical practitioner locator. After a medical procedure has been selected by the user, the database, which may also include  
10 a database of medical practitioners, provides a list of surgeons performing the procedure in the area preferred by the user.

Information relating to a procedure may vary from one medical practitioner to another. Thus one surgeon may  
15 have a dedicated database of procedures they perform and from this list of procedures the user picks the appropriate procedure they wish to investigate. That surgeon's information in step 27 is then able to be viewed by the user.

20 Instead of the site calculating the fees involved another embodiment of the invention requires that patients be given information with respect to the costs and charges of the procedure during their initial visit to the surgeon. This quote includes hospital costs, ancillary  
25 fees, anaesthetic fees etc. This financial information is uploaded to the website by the nurse and stored in the patients file so that the patient can access this information whenever they wish. Questions concerning the charges are preferably included in a questionnaire  
30 associated with this financial information.

In step 28 on Figure 1 a file of a user which is stored by the website may then be emailed in its totality to the treating surgeon.

With the system described above a medical  
35 practitioner such as a surgeon has the option of using standardised information sheets provided by the website or customised information sheets provided by the surgeon. In

addition a combination of both is also possible.

The advantage of the system described above is that it provides quality assurance for the medical practitioner prior to the medical practitioner performing any procedure on a patient. A record is retained of all information accessed by a patient as well as a record of the patient's understanding of the procedure through their answering of their questionnaire. Each user file is stored securely (may include encryption) on the website database and may also be stored on a private database of the medical practitioner.

There are also options to add additional information for recordal such as that provided by a surgeon to a patient following an incorrectly answered questionnaire. A record can be retained of another questionnaire covering more detail about the procedure or an acknowledgment email which is sent from the medical practitioners computer to the website as an acknowledgment that further issues have been discussed and understood by the patient.

According to another embodiment of the invention the website is linked to a medical practitioners website through a hidden link. In this way the website appears as part of the medical practitioners website.

According to another variation of the invention everything viewed by a patient is presented in a hard copy form and questionnaires are completed in hard copy form so that a hard copy file can be kept covering all the information of a patient including that information viewed and completed by the patient. In addition this hard copy information may be scanned and recorded at the medical practitioners website and then can be emailed for storage at the ISC website.

According to another embodiment of the invention the website may include as a menu option, a medical diagnosis section. When this option is clicked on by a patient or prospective patient one or more pages will

appear asking questions about the patient's condition, problem. This information can then be transmitted to a medical practitioner for analysis.

With each procedure which is carried out by a doctor, the website will provide a form containing pertinent information with respect to any relevant information associated with the procedure. Thus this may include details of the actual procedure performed, complications which may occur, any equipment used or drugs used etc. This provides the basis for subsequent data analysis and provides them with information for a surgical audit.

In addition to the above the website may include additional modules relating to best practices for a surgeon/doctor. Therefore the website in effect keeps a practice manual relating to issues concerning management of the surgeons practice. This may include items such as billing practices, charges, telephone answering techniques, privacy policies, staff employment information, staff qualifications and expiry of registrations and insurance. This allows the website to build the practice manual specific to the practice of the surgeon.

The website will also be able to produce reminders automatically notifying the practice whenever registrations and insurances are due to expire so the practice will not be employing non-registered, non-insured staff. More specific information also is required, for example sterilisation procedures, management of pathology results and tracking of abnormal pathology results.

It is preferred that each practice will have an associated access code possibly with different layers of authorisation so that different people within the practice can access different information.

The website will record access to the practice modules and progress of an employee if the employees are using the practice module for training purposes. Thus the

module may include questionnaires relating to different aspects of the module.

For example the module may include risk management issues whereby all staff can view and answer 5 the ubiquitous questionnaire. This teaches staff how to handle the difficult and more litigious patients.

In addition to the above the website can also incorporate a continuous professional development module. This module will provide a record of each doctor's or 10 other professionals ongoing professional development. Thus an online journal club will be provided where doctors are referred to a particular journal article from a scientific journal. The scientific journal may relate to recent developments. They will be presented with a 15 summary of the article and a series of questions associated with it which they will need to answer. Their answers are recorded and logged into their continuous professional development file which is stored on the website. This is a way of proving that they are 20 continuing to keep themselves upto date with the latest scientific information. The module may also include details of conferences, seminars or training activities and may record attendance of doctors or other professionals at such events.

25 The module may also include the ability to summarise each individuals attendance at events over a period of time and their response to questionnaires used in professional development. The module may also provide reminders or other warnings to each doctor if their 30 attendance at events and responses to questions asked are below a minimum standard. This standard might be associated with a point value associated with attending events and answering questionnaires correctly.

It is to be understood that, if any prior art 35 publication is referred to herein, such reference does not constitute an admission that the publication forms a part of the common general knowledge in the art, in Australia

- 16 -

or in any other country.

Variations and modifications can be made in respect of the invention described above and defined in the following statement of claim

1. A system for controlling access to
- 5 procedural information comprising an internet website having a data entry means to enable entry of data relating to a client and authentication means to verify an ID access code for each client, a memory means to store data relating to each client including each client's ID access
- 10 code, data on a plurality of procedures, data relating to each entity associated with performing the procedures and a monitoring means to monitor access to any data on one or more of the procedures by each client and to store in the memory means data relating to data accessed by each
- 15 client.

Dated this 20th day of March 2003

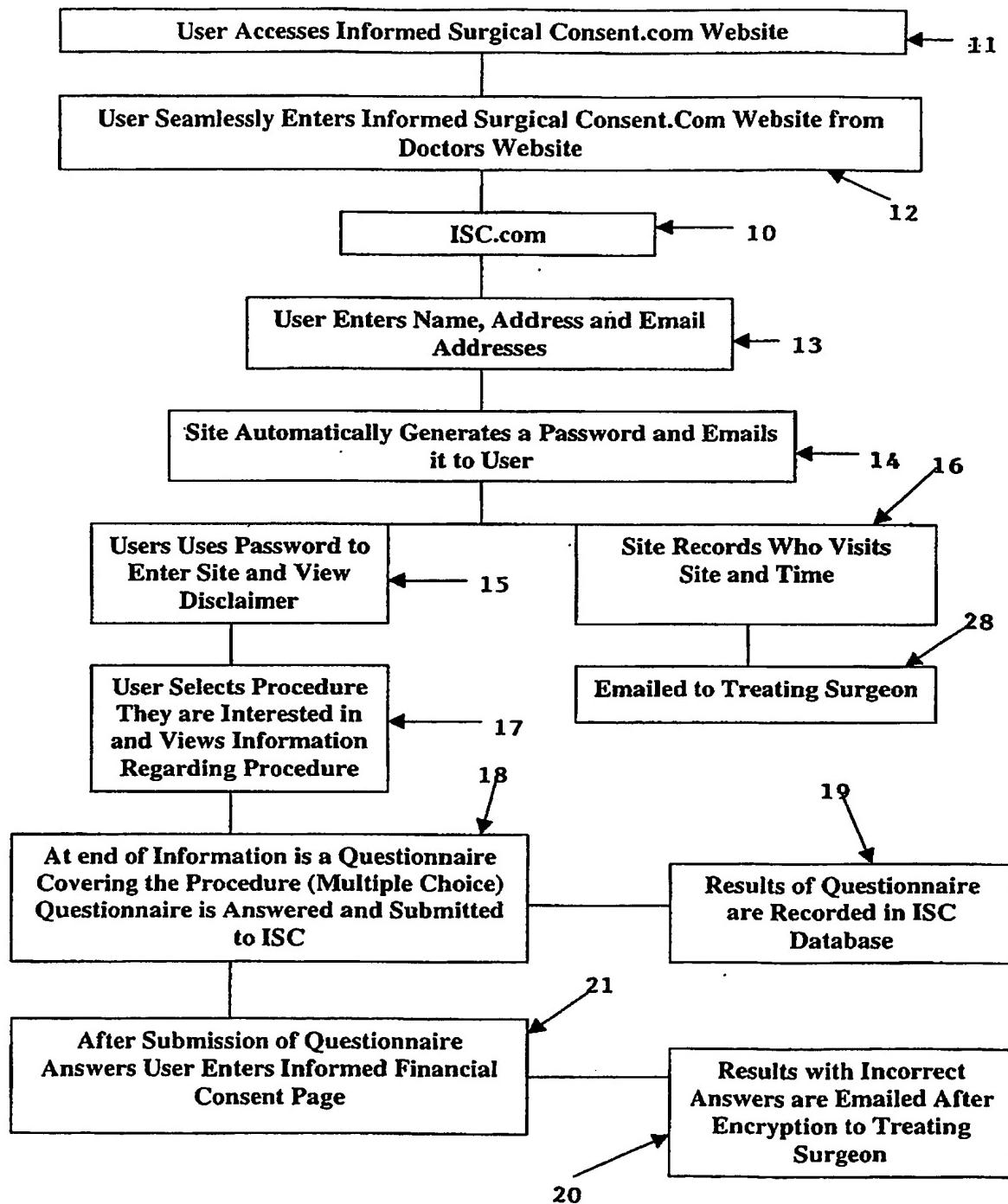
VIVANTTI PTY LTD

By their Patent Attorneys

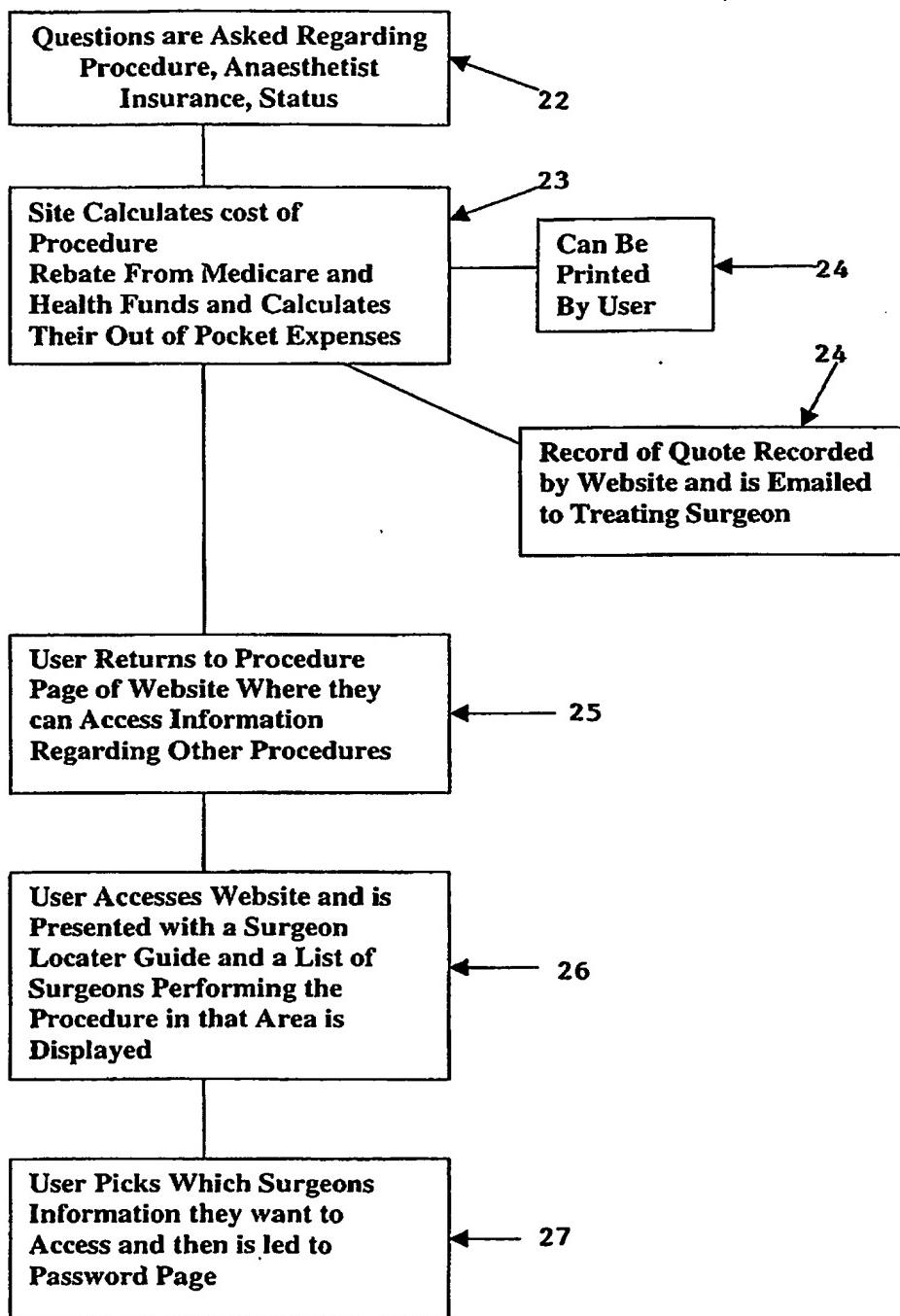
GRIFFITH HACK

- 20 Fellows Institute of Patent and  
Trade Mark Attorneys of Australia

**Figure 1**  
**Informed Surgical Consent (ISC) Flow Chart**



**Figure 2**



## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

WIPO

PCT

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PJW:FP18435	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. PCT/AU2003/001271	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 25 September 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 26 September 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 G06F 17/60, 17/30, 19/00, 159:00		
Applicant VIVANTTI PTY LTD et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I  Basis of the report
- II  Priority
- III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV  Lack of unity of invention
- V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI  Certain documents cited
- VII  Certain defects in the international application
- VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13 April 2004	Date of completion of the report 18 January 2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer  <b>P. THONG</b> Telephone No. (02) 6283 2128

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001271

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*
  - the international application as originally filed.
  - the description, pages , as originally filed,  
pages , filed with the demand,  
pages , received on with the letter of
  - the claims, pages , as originally filed,  
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,  
pages , filed with the demand,  
pages , received on with the letter of
  - the drawings, pages , as originally filed,  
pages , filed with the demand,  
pages , received on with the letter of
  - the sequence listing part of the description:  
pages , as originally filed  
pages , filed with the demand  
pages , received on with the letter of
2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
 These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:
  - the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
  - the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
  - the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
  - contained in the international application in written form.
  - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
  - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
  - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
  - The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
  - The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished
4.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
  - the description, pages
  - the claims, Nos.
  - the drawings, sheets/fig.
5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001271

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 11,12,18-23	YES
	Claims 1-10,13-17	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 23	YES
	Claims 1-22	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-23	YES
	Claims	NO

**2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**

D1 = US 2002/0062218      D2 = WO 2001/039076      D3 = US 6256613

New Citations

D4 = WO 2001/086479 A (KNAPP) 15 November 2001

D5 = US 6171112 B1 (CLARK et al.) 9 January 2001

Only citations D4 and D5 are considered relevant.

NOVELTY (N): Claims 1-10,13-17

Citation D5 is relevant because it discloses a system (column 16 line 59) for controlling access to procedural information comprising:

- An internet site (column 16 line 65, column 26 lines 6 to 16) with means for client or entity data entry and means to verify id codes (column 12 lines 57 to 64, column 13 line 47, column 18 lines 49 to 55 and figures 15 to 17)
- Means for storing clients id codes, procedure information and entity associated with performing the procedure (column 8 line 62 to column 9 line 9)
- Means for monitoring client access to the procedure information and for recording such an access as per page 11 lines 13 to 15 of the application (column 11 lines 13 to 40, column 14 lines 42 to 57 and column 15 line 48 to column 16 line 35 etc.)

Citation D4 (page 15 line 5 to page 18 line 27, figures 4a and 4b etc.) anticipates the claimed arrangement in a similar manner.

In view of such disclosures, the claimed arrangement cannot be considered novel.

NOTE: a) See also Box VI "Certain documents cited".

b) Refer to Supplemental Box for continuation of this box.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001271

**VI. Certain documents cited****1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)**

Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date ( valid claim) (day/month/year)
P,X US 6461162	8 October 2002	5 June 2000	5 June 2000
E US 2003/0216940	20 November 2003	10 April 2003	10 April 2002

With regard to the document listed in Box VI under "Certain documents cited", this is a document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed but which would otherwise be considered to be of particular relevance.

Under the PCT, novelty is considered only in respect of document(s) published before the priority date. The relevance of a document published after the priority date is dependent upon national law. Such documents are excluded from consideration in preliminary examination, under the PCT Guidelines but have been included here for information.

**2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)**

Kind of non-written disclosure	Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001271

**Supplemental Box**

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

**Continuation of Box V.2. Citations and explanations****INVENTIVE STEP (IS): Claims 1-22**

Claims 1-10,13-17: As above.

Claims 11,12: Citation D5 (page 17 lines 22 to 28) discloses that following an access session, a provider is mailed an encrypted message regarding a session. Although e-mail is not specified, its usage in message delivery cannot be considered inventive in the light of common general knowledge.

Claims 18-22: Citation D4 (figure 24) includes a disclaimer toward the end of a session. Placing a disclaimer at the onset of a session is a variation that do not contribute to an inventive step.